outlets at a cost not exceeding Rs. 25 lakhs for marketing products of SSI, tiny, cottage and village industries.

Normally marketing organisations are expected to obtain working capital advance from the banks. However, the scheme, *inter-alia*, envisages that SFCs/ twin function IDCs can sanction working capital assistance to the marketing entrepreneurs under the Single Window Scheme for financing stocks of products of SSI units pending finalisation of working capital arrangements with banks.

(b) Such loans for setting up outlets dealing solely with the products of artisans, village and cottage industries can be covered under the credit guarantee scheme of DICGC.

(c) SIDBI has reported that the term loans under the scheme should be secured by a first charge by way of mortgage/hypothecation of fixed assets of show-room/sale outlet in favour of the primary leading agency. In case of the existing units seeking assistance for expansion/renovation, the charge shall rank *paripassu* with the existing first charge, if any. No collateral security in favour of SIDBI is insisted upon under the scheme.

(d) Policy measures for promoting and strengthening small tiny and village entrepreneurs announced by Government of India, Ministry of Industry on August 6, 1991, *inter-alia*, state that composite loans under Single Window Scheme which has been enlarged to cover projects upto Rs. 20 lakhs with working capital requirement upto Rs. 10 lakhs which was hitherto available only through SFCs and twin function IDCs would also be channelised through commercial banks. Accordingly, SIDBI has extended the Single Window Scheme to scheduled Commercial Banks since February 18, 1992.

Loan Schemes offered by SBI

1958. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India and its subsidiaries have introduced 'Big Buy Scheme' to achieve high value consumer qualities, ensuring that the privileges of civilisation are no longer the prerogative of the privileged;

(b) if so, what are the details of such schemes and details of monthly repayment scheduled;

(c) whether it is also a fact that certain branches of SBI are not honouring such requests referred in part (a) above on the flimsy excuses that they have not received such circulars for compliance; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such circulars and what action Government propose to take against the erring officials; if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, 'Big Buy Scheme' was introduced by State Bank of India in March, 1988 to enable the permanent employees of Central/State Government and Public Sector/Private Sector to purchase consumer durables viz. scooters, cars, refrigerators, washing machines etc. Such employees should have put in 5 years permanent service and net monthly income should not be less than Rs. 1,500/-. The loan amount is restricted to 12 times net monthly income/salary subject to a miximum of Rs. 1 lakh. The margin is 25% and rate of interest is 23.25% per annum. The loan is repayable in equated 36 to 60 months monthly repayments. At present on a loan of Rs. 10,000/- the monthly instalment for a loan repayable in 60 months is Rs. 281/- This scheme also covers professionals and self-employed persons with a minimum of 5 years' standings.

(c) and (d) State Bank of India has reported that the scheme is at present operated by metropolitan urban and other identified authorised branches. However, at present in terms of Reserve Bank of India instructions, the bank is to ensure that there is no increase in the credit outstanding under loan scheme for purchase of consumer durables, which includes the Big Buy Scheme of SBI.

Irregularities in Operation Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme

1959. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of gross irregularities have been detected involving crores of rupees by certain exchange operators with the introduction of the Remittances in Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of the investigations, if any, conducted into this; and

(d) what action has been taken/ proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Effect of Non-withdrawal of Stipulation on Letter of Credit

1960. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to to state:

(a) whether the entrepreneurs that came to set up new industrial units based on the latest technologies and equipment are seriously crippled over the Government's failure to withdraw debilitating marginal stipulation for overseas letter of credit to import components and chemicals for their project; and

(b) if so, how many companies are suffering because of the non-withdrawal of the restrictive provision (margin) by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The requirement of prescribed minimum cash margins on imports other than capital goods was withdrawn with effect from February 12, 1992.

(b) Does not arise.

Reduction of Cost and Duties to make Indian Industries Competitive

1961. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Industry is not in a position to compete with other countries in view of the higher infrastructure costs, high rate of import and excise duties; and

(b) if so, what Government have taken or propose to take to help the industry by removing the various restrictions and reducing the costs and duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Competitive strength of Indian industry in the international market depends not only on the level of excise and import duties and infrastructure costs but also on technology absorption, productive efficiency, scales of operation as well as non-price factors such as quality and standardisation of products, schedule of delivery etc.

(b) Government have already initiated a number of policy measures such as delicensing of industry, liberalisation of technology imports, and reduction in import duties on capital goods in order to increase the competitiveness of the Indian industries.

Impact of New Economic Package on Price rise

1962. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have come out with a new economic package of liberalisation privatisation, exit policy;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether such a package will increase the prices of various commodities; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) The contours of the new policy package are outlined in the Budget presented to the Parliament few days ago. The basic thrust of the new policy is to restore macro-economic balance and improve the efficiency, productivity and international competitiveness of Indian industry. These measure are expected to enhance supply response of the economy and contain pressures from the demand side thereby easing pressure on prices.